

## HOUSE BILL NO. 6

INTRODUCED BY M. HOPKINS

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND  
LOAN PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
CONSERVATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM;  
PRIORITIZING PROJECT GRANTS AND AMOUNTS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS;  
PROVIDING FOR COORDINATION OF FUNDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriations for renewable resource grants.** (1) For the biennium  
beginning July 1, 2023, there is appropriated to the department of natural resources and conservation from the  
natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 up to:

- (a) \$300,000 for emergency projects grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;
- (b) \$3,500,000 for planning grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;
- (c) \$500,000 for irrigation development grants to be awarded by the department over the  
biennium;
- (d) \$500,000 for watershed grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;
- (e) \$100,000 for private grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium; and
- (f) \$2,500,000 for nonpoint source pollution reduction grants to be awarded by the department  
over the biennium.

(2) The amount of \$6,250,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and  
conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for the  
biennium beginning July 1, 2023. The funds referred to in this subsection must be awarded by the department  
to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts listed in subsection (4), subject to

the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the renewable resource grant and loan program January 2023 report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years 2023-2025 Volume 6".

(3) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in subsection (4) in the following listed order of priority until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. If at any time a grant sponsor determines that a project will not begin before June 30, 2025, the sponsor shall notify the department of natural resources and conservation. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may be used for any renewable resource project authorized under this section.

(4) The following are the prioritized infrastructure grant projects:

#### RENEWABLE RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS

Applicant/Project	Amount
Cooke City	
Cooke City Wastewater Treatment and Collection System	\$125,000
West Yellowstone, Town of	
West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Project	\$125,000
Red Lodge, City of	
Red Lodge Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
Superior, Town of	
Superior Wastewater System Improvements Project	\$125,000
Choteau, City of	
Choteau Water System Improvements	\$125,000
Cascade, Town of	
Cascade Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
Sand Coulee, Town of	
Sand Coulee Wastewater Improvements	\$125,000
Kalispell, City of	
Kalispell Morning Star Court Water and Wastewater Improvement Project	\$125,000

1	Saco, Town of	
2	Saco Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
3	Drummond, Town of	
4	Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	\$125,000
5	Craig County WSD	
6	Craig Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
7	Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District	
8	Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District Gallatin Canyon Sewer Project Phase 1.2	
9		\$125,000
10	Thompson Falls, City of	
11	Thompson Falls Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
12	Corvallis County Sewer District	
13	Corvallis Wastewater Collection System Improvements	\$125,000
14	Helena, City of	
15	Helena Red Mountain Flume Repairs Project #22-05	\$125,000
16	Havre, City of	
17	Havre Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
18	Bigfork County Water and Sewer District	
19	Bigfork County Water and Sewer District West Trunk Sewer Replacement and Collection Basin	
20	Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
21	Belt, Town of	
22	Belt Water System Improvements	\$125,000
23	Lincoln County	
24	Lincoln County Libby Creek Community Water and Wastewater Improvements	\$125,000
25	Richey, Town of	
26	Richey Water Main Replacement Phase 2	\$125,000
27	Geraldine, Town of	
28	Geraldine Water System Improvements	\$125,000

1	Victor Water and Sewer District	
2	Victor Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements Project	\$125,000
3	Forsyth, City of	
4	Forsyth Water System Improvements	\$125,000
5	Townsend, Town of	
6	Townsend Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
7	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District	
8	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	\$125,000
9	Twin Bridges, Town of	
10	Twin Bridges Water System Improvements	\$125,000
11	Dodson, Town of	
12	Dodson Water System Improvements	\$125,000
13	Sunburst, Town of	
14	Sunburst Wastewater Distribution and Treatment Project	\$125,000
15	Philipsburg, Town of	
16	Water Main Replacement Alley between Broadway and Stockton (Duffy-Sansome)	\$125,000
17	Missoula, City of	
18	Missoula Comprehensive Stormwater Plan	\$125,000
19	Denton, Town of	
20	Denton Wastewater System Upgrades Phase 1	\$125,000
21	Dutton, Town of	
22	Dutton Water System Improvements	\$125,000
23	Circle, Town of	
24	Circle Waterline Replacement Project Phase 4	\$125,000
25	Clancy Water and Sewer District	
26	Clancy Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	\$125,000
27	Basin County Water and/or Sewer District	
28	Basin Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000

1	Wolf Point, City of	
2	Wolf Point Wastewater Project Phase 1	\$125,000
3	Hideaway Community County Water & Sewer District	
4	Hideaway Court Community Sewer Project (HCCWSD)	\$125,000
5	Chester, Town of	
6	Chester Wastewater Improvements Project	\$125,000
7	Troy, City of	
8	Troy Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
9	Lockwood Water and Sewer District	
10	Lockwood Water and Sewer District Mid Zone Reservoir	\$125,000
11	Hot Springs, Town of	
12	Hot Springs Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
13	Hingham, Town of	
14	Hingham Wastewater System Improvements Project	\$125,000
15	Chester, Town of	
16	Chester Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
17	Shelby, City of	
18	Shelby Wastewater Improvements Project	\$125,000
19	Conrad, City of	
20	Conrad Storm Water Project	\$125,000
21	Absarokee Water and Sewer District	
22	Absarokee Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	\$125,000
23	North Cut Bank Glacier County Water and Sewer District	
24	North Cut Bank Glacier County Wastewater Lift Station Improvements	\$125,000
25	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County Water and Sewer District	
26	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County WSD Wastewater System Improvements	
27		\$125,000
28	Judith Gap, Town of	

1 Judith Gap Wastewater Water Line and Meter Upgrade Project \$125,000

2 Boulder, City of

3 Boulder Drinking Water System Improvements \$125,000

4 (5) The amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and  
 5 conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for the  
 6 biennium beginning July 1, 2023. The funds referred to in this subsection must be awarded by the department  
 7 to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts listed in subsection (7), subject to  
 8 the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the renewable resource grant  
 9 and loan program January 2023 report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years  
 10 2023-2025 Volume 6".

11 (6) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in subsection (7) in the following listed  
 12 order of priority until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must  
 13 be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. If at any time a  
 14 grant sponsor determines that a project will not begin before June 30, 2025, the sponsor shall notify the  
 15 department of natural resources and conservation. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may  
 16 be used for any renewable resource project authorized under this section.

17 (7) The following are the prioritized irrigation grant projects:

18 RENEWABLE RESOURCE IRRIGATION GRANT PROJECTS

19 Applicant/Project	Amount
20 Greenfields Irrigation District	
21 Greenfields Irrigation District Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric Project	\$125,000
22 Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1	
23 Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1 Thomas Point Pumping Plant Rehabilitation	\$125,000
24 Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project	
25 Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Critical Structures Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
26 Helena Valley Irrigation District	
27 Helena Valley Irrigation District Regulating Reservoir Preservation & Bypass Project	\$125,000
28 Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project 2	

1	Shirley Main Canal Rehabilitation Phase 2	\$125,000
2	Pondera County Conservation District	
3	Pondera County Conservation District Birch Creek Diversion Automation Project	\$125,000
4	Madison County	
5	Madison County Big Hole River Restoration Design and Permitting	\$125,000
6	Ruby Valley Conservation District	
7	Ruby Valley CD Upper Jefferson Channel Restoration Project	\$125,000
8	Newlan Creek Water District	
9	Newlan Creek Water District Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements	\$125,000
10	Savage Irrigation District	
11	Savage Irrigation District Pump Station Rehabilitation	\$125,000
12	Pondera County Conservation District	
13	Pondera County Conservation District PCCRC C-Canal Headworks Automation	\$125,000
14	East Bench Irrigation District	
15	East Bench Irrigation District Carter Creek Lining & Headgate Automation	\$125,000
16	Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project 1	
17	Eiker Reach Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
18	Hill County	
19	Hill County Beaver Creek Dam Tailwater Channel Restoration	\$125,000
20	Granite Conservation District	
21	Granite Conservation District - Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation	\$125,000
22	Blaine County	
23	Blaine County NCIA North Chinook Reservoir Dam Outlet Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
24	Paradise Valley Irrigation District	
25	Paradise Valley Irrigation District Hillside Ditch Pipeline Conversion Phase 2	\$125,000
26	Huntley Project Irrigation District	
27	Highline Discharge Pipeline Rehabilitation	\$125,000
28	Tin Cup Water and Sewer District	

1	Tin Cup and Mill Ditch Improvements	\$125,000
2	Billings, City of	
3	Rim Tunnel Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
4		

5            **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Coordination of fund sources for grants to political subdivisions**  
6   **and local governments.** A project sponsor listed under [section 1(4) or section 1(7)] may not receive funds  
7 from both the reclamation and development grants program and the renewable resource grant and loan  
8 program for the same project during the same biennium.

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10           **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Condition of grants.** Disbursement of funds under [section 1] is subject  
11 to the following conditions that must be met by the project sponsor:

12           (1)      A scope of work, schedule, and budget for the project must be approved by the department of  
13 natural resources and conservation. Any changes in scope of work or budget after legislative approval may not  
14 change project goals and objectives. Changes in activities that would reduce the public or natural resource  
15 benefits as presented in department of natural resources and conservation reports and applicant testimony to  
16 the 68th legislature may result in a proportional reduction in the grant amount.

17           (2)      The project sponsor shall show satisfactory completion of conditions described in the  
18 recommendation section of the project narrative of the program report to the legislature for the biennium ending  
19 June 30, 2025, or, in the case of planning grants issued under [section 1(1)(b)], completion of conditions  
20 specified at the time of written notification of approved grant authority.

21           (3)      The project sponsor must have a fully executed grant agreement with the department.

22           (4)      Any other specific requirements considered necessary by the department must be met to  
23 accomplish the purpose of the grant as evidenced from the application to the department or from the proposal  
24 as presented to the legislature.

25  
26           **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriations established.** There is appropriated to any entity of state  
27 government that receives a grant under [section 1] the amount of the grant upon award of the grant by the  
28 department of natural resources and conservation. Grants to entities from prior bienniums are reauthorized for



1 completion of contract work.

2

3 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation. The  
4 legislature, pursuant to 85-1-605, approves the renewable resource programs grants listed in [section 1]. The  
5 authorization of these grants constitutes a biennial appropriation from the natural resources projects state  
6 special revenue account established in 15-38-302.

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8 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a  
9 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

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11 COORDINATION SECTION. Section 7. Coordination instruction. (1) If both [this act] and an act  
12 that provides additional funding for renewable resource grant and loan program grants from a source other than  
13 the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 are passed and  
14 approved, the projects listed in [section 1(4) and section 1(7) of this act] that do not receive funding from the  
15 appropriations in [section 1(2) and section 1(5) of this act] may receive funding from the appropriation in the  
16 other act designated for renewable resource grant and loan program grants in the order of completion of the  
17 conditions of [section 3 of this act] and to the extent that there is appropriation authority available.

18 (2) Appropriations made in [section 1(1)(a) through (1)(f)] may be adjusted within [section 1(1)(a)  
19 through (1)(f)] within the biennium based on demand or emergencies.

20

21 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are  
22 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications,  
23 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

24

25 NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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